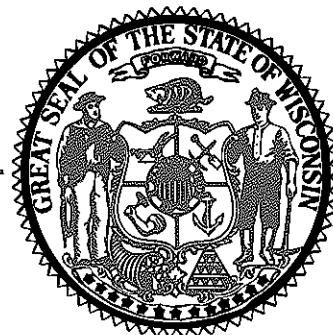


FRED A. RISSE

President
Wisconsin State Senate



Testimony of Senator Fred Risser to the Senate Committee on Health, Human Services, Insurance and Job Creation

Senate Bill 287
January 17, 2008

Good morning Senator Erpenbach and members of the committee. Thank you for holding a public hearing today on Senate Bill 287, which will allow 16 year old residents of Wisconsin the opportunity to voluntarily donate blood.

Under current law, any person who is 17 years of age or older may donate blood on a voluntary basis.

Senate Bill 287 will expand current law to allow 16 year olds to voluntarily donate blood, with parental consent. At this time, 17 states allow this practice.

According to the American Red Cross, every three seconds in America someone is in need of blood. Additionally, approximately 60% of the population is eligible to donate blood and only 5% actually do. By expanding the pool of eligible blood donors, we are not only assisting in filling a void, but giving teens the opportunity to make a difference.

Companion legislation, Assembly Bill 539, is currently moving forward in the other house. Recently the Assembly Committee on Public Health unanimously recommended passage of this proposal and it is being scheduled for action by the full Assembly during next week's floor session.

Thank you again for your consideration of Senate Bill 287. If you should have any questions about this legislation, please do not hesitate to ask.



AED LIFESAVING ACT OF 2007

TALKING POINTS – SENATE BILL 142

ISSUE

Last session, in order to expand liability protections to those who administer automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in cases of emergency, the training requirements were removed from the state law. The American Red Cross supported the changes in cases of Good Samaritan protections and to encourage lay persons to assist in times of heart emergencies.

POSITION

The American Red Cross believes that there are certain occupations, those required to obtain CPR training and certification, which the public holds to a higher expectation of care.

SENATE BILL 142

This bill relates to requirements on successfully completing training on use of an automated external defibrillator, extends the time limit for emergency rule procedures, and provides an exemption from emergency rule procedures.

This bill requires certain persons to successfully complete a course on the use of automated external defibrillators. The bill requires chiropractors, dental hygienists, dentists, licensed midwives, athletic trainers, and massage therapists and bodyworkers to demonstrate current proficiency in the use of an automated external defibrillator in order to obtain licensure or certification and, with the exception of massage therapists and bodyworkers, the renewal of a license or certificate. This bill also requires the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) to approve individuals, organizations, and institutions of higher education to provide the course.

TALKING POINTS

- Training is necessary in order to understand the role of defibrillation in the broader context of the cardiac chain of survival. Training in CPR and AED skills will enable the rescuer to use all the steps in the cardiac chain of survival, thereby significantly increasing the victim's chance of survival.
- AEDs are used most effectively by those who are properly trained. Training also minimizes response anxiety.
- Training not only covers the skill of using an AED, but also teaches other AED precautions and special situations a responder must be aware of such as using an AED in a moving vehicle, in and around wet environments, and with other implantable devices.

The American Red Cross supported changes in laws to encourage lay persons to assist in emergencies

Certain occupations are held to a higher expectation of care

SB-142 requires certain individuals to be trained on the use of AEDs

Training increases knowledge and effective use of AEDs

AED LIFESAVING ACT OF 2007

TALKING POINTS

TALKING POINTS (CONT.)

- CPR on its own is seldom enough to save lives; victims of cardiac arrest need immediate care from an AED. CPR provides a small but vital amount of oxygen-rich blood flow to the heart and brain, and it increases the chances that an AED shock will allow the heart to start working effectively.
- By using all four-steps in the Cardiac Chain of Survival, the victim's chance of survival is at its greatest.
 - 1) Early recognition and early access: The sooner someone calls 911 or the local emergency number, the sooner early advanced medical care arrives.
 - 2) Early CPR: Early CPR helps circulate blood that contains oxygen to the vital organs until an AED is ready to use.
 - 3) Early defibrillation: Each minute that defibrillation is delayed reduces the change of survival by about 10 percent.
 - 4) Early advanced medical care: Trained medical personnel such as emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics provide further care and transport to hospital facilities.
- Even though a person is not breathing and shows no other signs of life, the cells of the brain and of other important organs continue to live for a short time – until all the oxygen in the blood is used. Such a person needs immediate CPR and defibrillation.
- CPR is a combination of chest compressions and rescue breathing – which circulate the blood containing oxygen through the body. Defibrillation is a process of delivering an electrical shock that disrupts a heart's electrical activity long enough to allow the heart to develop an effective rhythm on its own.
- CPR increases a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival by keeping the brain and other vital organs supplied with oxygen until the person can receive defibrillation and advanced medical care.
- Following is a more scientific explanation of why it is important to conduct CPR in conjunction with using an AED:

After a shock from an AED eliminates Ventricular Fibrillation (VF), most hearts do not pump blood effectively for a few minutes after the shock. Chest compressions (CPR) are needed during this time to provide blood flow to the heart, brain and other organs. If VF does remain after one shock from an AED, chest compressions will deliver oxygen to the heart. This will make the VF more likely to be eliminated by the next shock.

CPR on its own is
seldom enough
to save lives

AEDs allow for
early
defibrillation, part
of the Cardiac
Chain of Survival

CPR circulates
blood containing
oxygen through
the body

+

Defibrillation
allows the heart
to develop an
effective rhythm



CPR and
defibrillation work
together to
increase a
cardiac arrest
victim's chances
of survival